

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

Permit No. 50
First Class
U.S. Postage Paid
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

VOL. 51, No. 5

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)

MARCH 6, 2007

NEWS NOTES

Fitness program starts Saturday

The Mack Fitness and Recreation Center is offering a fitness program every Saturday from March 10 through April 21 (except March 31).

The program consists of a cardiovascular toning class from 10-11 a.m. and a yoga/Pilates fusion class from 11 a.m. to noon.

Take one or both classes; each costs \$48 for six weeks. Tuition is payable at time of registration. Make checks payable to PA Dance Vision. Registration forms are available at the center. For further information, call X57583.

Women's Club offers scholarship

The Tobyhanna Women's Club scholarship applications for high school and college students are now available. They can be found on the depot intranet in the "What's New" section. Hard copies are available in the Public Affairs Office.

The club plans to award five \$1,000 scholarships in this year's competition. The application deadline is April 7.

For information, call Eileen Rizzo at X57336.

Discount prices at book fair

A Book Fair will be held March 27 in the main aisle of Building 1A and March 28 by the credit union in Building 11. Both fairs will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Books and novelty items will be on sale at 30 to 70 percent off retail price.

For information, call Jeff Davis, X58851.

POW/MIA dedication set for May

The dedication ceremony of the Tobyhanna Army Depot POW/MIA Memorial will be May 12, 11 a.m., at the memorial site. Details of the event will be available at a later date. All individuals and groups interested in having an engraved paver included in the memorial for the dedication ceremony should order the pavers by March 16.

For information on ordering pavers, call Les Sharp, 895-7767, or Caroline Jurosky, 895-6789. Forms for the pavers can also be submitted to the Tobyhanna Army Depot Federal Credit Union, Tobyhanna Army Depot, POW Memorial Fund.

Firefinders come in from the cold New tower track facility provides year-round testing capability

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna personnel have successfully tested Army radar systems from inside a structure designed to shelter equipment and crews from inclement weather.

The new 1,000 square foot Firefinder Tower Track Enclosure is a self-contained building used to calibrate the AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder systems following repair and overhaul. The structure opened for business in July and replaces a temporary facility built in 2005.

Firefinders automatically locate the firing position of enemy cannon, rockets and mortars and are in constant use in operations in Southwest Asia.

"I like the new building," said John Marquard, electronics mechanic leader, Firefinder Division. "Everything is more functional and centralized. No more running between several locations while testing the systems."

The success of the temporary facility led to the construction of the \$97,000 permanent structure, which is able to house the antenna, test shelter, computer equipment, antenna transceiver group and standard tools. The facility boasts a control room and is temperature controlled. It measures 25 feet wide, 40 feet long and 24 feet high.

Tower track is an accuracy verification test that uses a signal relayed from a tower 1,000 feet away to test the AN/TPQ-36 in 90 different positions and the AN/TPQ-37 in 76 positions. Tests can take between 17-47 minutes to complete.

According to Mike Rusinko, electronics engineer, Industrial Modernization Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate, the systems work well in all conditions, but when calibrating the antenna it's important to provide a controlled environment to get accurate results.

"The antenna is a sensitive piece of equipment and there are a lot of variables to contend with," said Marquard. "It's up to us (technicians) to get the radar's results within the set ranges."

Tower track personnel are on call 24 hours, seven days a week. The depot has completed 113 radars since fiscal year 2005, 88 TPQ-36s and 25 TPQ-37s.

Tower track testing has evolved since the radar systems transitioned from Sacramento Air Logistics Center to Tobyhanna in the 1990s.

Initially, testing procedures required an antenna be stationed on



John Kasse (left) and John Marquard check the level of the AN/TPQ-37 during a tower track test. They are electronics mechanics in the Firefinder Division.



Marquard (left) and Kasse open the cooling vents on a radar system inside the new tower track facility. (Photos by Steve Grzedzinski)

a concrete slab, which worked well in good weather. As the depot's support of the war increased, officials realized something had to be done to keep up with the growing workload, according to Rusinko.

To address concerns that an enclosed shelter would interfere with the tower track tests, engineers designed a movable shelter made entirely of composite materials, he explained. The small temporary facility worked. It protected the antennas from the cold, rain and snow, but it wasn't large enough to house the other equipment necessary to run the tests. Employees were still exposed to the elements, Rusinko added.

"We needed to design a facility that would allow consistency in the fine tuning of the radar in order to provide a high level of system accuracy in the field," Rusinko said. "Exposure to snow and ice, and extreme cold and heat can cause variations in the radar's performance, altering the final test results."

Rusinko and his coworkers worked with the Public Works Directorate on the design and construction project incorporating suggestions from Firefinder employees into the final plan.

"This was a big effort," Rusinko said. "Everyone worked well together to come up with a design that works and was cost effective."

**Military society honors
depot empolyee**

Page 3

Women's History Month

Page 4

Life in the Middle Ages

Page 5

Era of heroes not over

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by
Chaplain (Maj.) Philip Smiley



What does it take to be a hero, or a great leader?

Are there still people around like Moses, Daniel, Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, Audie Murphy or Martin Luther King Jr.?

Are we past the days when heroes emerge and inspire us with their great deeds?

I have pondered that every now and then as I watch the news and keep up with current events.

While I was in Bosnia (September 1998 - March 1999) someone sent me the following prose that got me thinking about this subject.

Let me share it with you.

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE MEN!

"The world needs more men

who do not have a price at which they can be bought;

who do not borrow from integrity to pay for expediency;

whose handshake is an ironclad contract;

who are not afraid of risk;

who have opinions instead of prejudices;

who are as honest in small matters as they are in large ones;

whose ambitions are big enough to include others;

who know how to win with grace and lose with dignity;

who do not believe that shrewdness and cunning and ruthlessness are the three keys to success;

who still have friends they made twenty years ago;

who are not afraid to go against the grain of popular opinion and do not believe in the 'consensus';

who are occasionally wrong and always willing to admit it.

In short, the world needs leaders."

-Anonymous, Fortune Magazine, 1948

The only thing I would add to these thoughts is that it should encompass both men and women. But other than that, these words really spell out what we need in our world today.

As I sit and ponder, I think about the Army values I wear with my dog tags: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. I also think about the guides for living I find in the Bible, like the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule and the code for behavior found in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7.

And I draw this conclusion. The era of heroes and great leaders is not over, it may have just begun. The opportunities are here. The times are ripe and the need is great.

I can choose to be a hero, or a great leader, just by stepping up and following the codes that I accept as standards. And so can each one of you who reads these words. The world is crying for heroes, for leaders, for great men and women to stand up and fearlessly do what needs to be done.

Are you the next Winston Churchill, Norman Schwarzkopf or Golda Meir?

The more I read about the men and women in history who are revered as heroes, the more I realize that they are no different than you or me. They chose to become heroes. They did it the hard way. Not for glory or honor, wealth or fame, but because it had to be done, because it was the right thing to do. They found the courage to stand for the truth, to right the wrongs and fight the battles that had to be won.

In the Bible accounts, whenever God needed something done, he tapped an individual on the shoulder and said, "I need you. I will be with you. Be of good courage. Do what needs to be done." And then great things happened.

I would like to challenge us all to be the heroes and leaders that this nation and this world needs especially right now.

Be the right person in the right place at the right time. Make a difference where you are and look for opportunities to change things for the better.

In the story of Queen Esther, when her people were in danger of being destroyed, her uncle Mordecai challenged her to be a hero with these words: "...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 5:14 KJV) And because she found the courage to accept that challenge, an entire nation was saved from annihilation.

Maybe you are where you are right now because God wants you to be a hero. Step up and make a difference.



Service: what does it mean to you

Commentary by Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Air Mobility Warfare Center Public Affairs

Imagine asking a military veteran from your hometown, "What does service mean to you?"

Chances are you'll get an earful in return.

Have you ever left a store or a restaurant and wondered afterward, "They really could use a course in customer service."

Chances are you were probably right; but in turn, those people who treated you poorly may have in their minds that what they did was provide you with good customer service.

Whose perception is right or wrong? The answer lies mostly in the opinion of the recipient, but I've always believed you should treat people how you would want to be treated. And I don't know anyone who wants to be treated poorly.

The truth is, the term "service" has many meanings, but in return I believe those meanings all blend together.

To me, service is about loyalty, hard work, dedication, initiative, humility and sacrifice (to name a few). It means sometimes putting other people's needs ahead of your own. It means truly caring about what you do, what you say and how that affects those around you.

I remember as a teenager I'd take jobs mowing grass, raking leaves and shoveling snow. They would take hours upon hours to complete and often I'd get paid little or nothing. No problem. It was the way my parents raised me – to think about helping your fellow human beings without asking for anything in return.

I also recall more recently when I met a Vietnam veteran who lost both of his legs in the war. I talked with him and asked him why he was still so dedicated to supporting troops and remembering the military heroes of the past. In a spirited yet soulful response, he said, "I may have

lost my legs, but I still have my heart. I'm proud to have served in the Army. Now, I do whatever I can."

As another example, for the past 15 years, I've been married to a woman who has given me three children, saw me leave on a half-dozen deployments, numerous temporary duty assignments and work late more than once. Did she have to put up with that? Why does she stay and how come I deserve someone like her? Only my wife could answer those questions, but I will say I'm thankful for her every day.

The same idea holds true for children, parents and friends who know you, are loyal to you, and help you when you need it. What is it in your relationship with them that keeps you dedicated to them?

It's through all of this where we must understand the deeper meaning of service. It's not about what people do or where they work, it's about who they are.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my military career to this point and will continue to enjoy it until I retire some years from now. There have been millions before me who have "served" in the military and millions more who "served" alongside them in families and through many, many support functions. I've given my decade and a half of years in service to my country that I'll never get back, but am proud that I've had the opportunity to be in "the service."

Although it's meant giving up on dreams I may have had outside of the military, knowing what "service" means to me has been an important foundation block in my life. So, if you find yourself wanting to ask that question about "service," look inside and first understand what it means to you. Only then will you understand why it's important to so many others like me and that military veteran who could give you an earful.

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

Contents of the Tobyhanna Reporter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army. The 6,000

copies are printed by a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with Tobyhanna Army Depot.

The editor reserves the right to edit all information submitted for publication. News may be submitted to the Tobyhanna Reporter, Tobyhanna Army Depot, 11 Hap Arnold Boulevard, Tobyhanna, Pa.,

18466-5076. (Internal Mail Stop 5076.) Telephone (570) 895-7557 or DISN 795-7557.

The Tobyhanna Reporter staff can also be reached by electronic mail using the following addresses:

Anthony.Ricchiazzi@us.army.mil
Jacqueline.Boucher@us.army.mil



PRINTED ON PARTIALLY RECYCLED PAPER.
PLEASE RECYCLE AS OFFICE QUALITY PAPER.

TEAM
TOBYHANNA

EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS

Commander, Col. Ron Alberto
Public Affairs Officer, Kevin M. Toolan
Editor, Anthony J. Ricchiazzi
Assistant Editor, Jacqueline R. Boucher
Photographers, Anthony S. Medici, Steve Grzedzinski

Firefinder work garners field artillery honors

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Assistant Editor

A Tobyhanna electronics engineer was inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara for supporting United States field artillery while working on a critical radar system.

Brian Hutz was awarded the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara Medal during the annual ceremony at Fort Monmouth, N.J., for accomplishments while assigned as Firefinder project leader from 1995-2005.

"I feel fortunate to have worked with so many great people from all parts of the depot," Hutz said. "They went above and beyond to accomplish the Firefinder mission."

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society composed of personnel associated with U.S. field artillery. Marine Corps and Army field artillery personnel, along with their military and civilian supporters, are eligible for membership. There are two levels of recognition: Ancient Order of Saint Barbara and Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Hutz was recognized for leading a team of management and engineering personnel coordinating the Reset, recapitalization and upgrades of the AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder radar systems. During his tenure, the program increased in value from \$6.7 million to \$41.7 million.

Today, he works in the Commodity Management Division, Business Management Directorate.

Coworkers understood the warfighter was counting on Tobyhanna to provide a system that would save lives.

"Supporting the warfighter was the most rewarding experience of my life. We spoke and worked directly with them so we know what these systems meant to them," said George Gruver, logistics management specialist, Air Traffic Control Scheduling Division, Production Management Directorate. "Providing the best product possible in the least amount of time was always on our minds."

As project leader, Hutz organized upgrade efforts ensuring schedule, cost, quality of design, fabrication, integration, installation, and testing and fielding requirements were met. He also was responsible for coordinating the worldwide fieldings for active Army and National Guard and Marine Corps units.

"Working with Brian was a pleasure," said Frank Balish, mechanical engineer, Project Engineering Division, Production Engineering Directorate. "He cared about the customer and getting the job done. He always looked out for Tobyhanna and tried to bring in new work whenever possible."

Firefinder personnel traveled the world repairing and upgrading Firefinder systems in addition to unscheduled maintenance actions to bring systems back on line.

"I feel the work accomplished here was important to the warfighter," Hutz said. "We improved the reparability of



Order of Saint Barbara inducts Brian Hutz into honorary military society based on 10 years of work on Firefinder radars. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

the Firefinder radar. Teamwork is what made the mission successful."

Hutz and the Firefinder team improved system mobility, transportability and self-survey capability, according to information in the nomination package.

Depot officials noted that Hutz displayed a high degree of professional competence and leadership while ensuring the Firefinder Radar System remained battle ready around the world and around the clock. Furthermore, his technical acumen and selfless devotion to duty ensured the swift yet crucial transition of Firefinder so that warfighter impact was minimized, they said.

"His [Hutz] dedication to Firefinder was unsurpassed, which drove the other team members to duplicate that effort," said Gruver. "His calmness in handling crisis situations (and there were many) made the overwhelming workload bearable."

In the early stages of the Firefinder project, Hutz orchestrated the full repair capability transition from the Sacramento Air Logistics Center to Tobyhanna. The effort involved synchronizing the transfer of technical data, test program sets, and test equipment, including training for engineers and technicians.

"Our workload consisted of building and installing upgrade kits for the AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TQP-37 radars," said Balish. "I'm proud to be part of this project. Firefinder is a critical system in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom."

Hutz also directed the initial AN/TPQ-36 recapitalization

THE LEGEND OF SAINT BARBARA

Saint Barbara was the beautiful daughter of a wealthy pagan named Dioscorus. Because of her beauty, and fearful that she be demanded in marriage, he jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.

Before embarking on a journey, he commissioned a bathhouse to be built for her.

Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone she spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower she looked out on the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things; the trees, the animals, and the people. She decided that all these must be part of the master plan, and she gradually came to accept the Christian faith.

As her belief became firm, she directed the builders to redesign the bathhouse her father had planned, adding a third window to symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the Prefect of the Province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading.

Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence and on his way home was struck by lightning.

The legend of the lightning bolt that struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

process to include extensive testing and technology insertion of more advanced Sentinel components to bring the system to a zero-hours/zero-miles condition.

"Saint Barbara awards are presented to people who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, morals and character, and who have displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence while serving the Field Artillery in a manner clearly recognized as exceptional by their subordinates, peers and superiors," said Col. Rick Sullivan, Garrison Commander, Senior Field Artilleryman at Fort Monmouth.

Saint Barbara died about the year 300. She was venerated as early as the seventh century, according to legend. When gunpowder first appeared in the West, Saint Barbara was invoked to ward against accidents resulting from explosions, and since early artillery pieces tended to explode instead of firing the projectile, Saint Barbara became the Patroness of Artillerymen.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS MARCH 11
AND ENDS NOVEMBER 04**

**FIRE DEPARTMENTS ENCOURAGE
PEOPLE TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES
IN THEIR SMOKE DETECTORS
WHEN THEY CHANGE THEIR CLOCKS**

READ THE

Tobyhanna Reporter



ON THE DEPOT'S
INTERNET SITE.
CURRENT AND
ARCHIVED ISSUES
OF THE BI-WEEKLY
PUBLICATION CAN BE
VIEWED AT

[HTTP://WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL/
ABOUT/NEWS/REPORTER.HTML](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/about/news/reporter.html)



Look at that shine

Bob Bohinski, machinist, smooths the rough edges on one of 88 jack support structures for the AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder radar systems. The jacks, made of solid aluminum, are cut by a Haas VS3 machine into the finished product. Bohinski works in the Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration Support Directorate. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

1972 law opens doors to sports, educational opportunities for women

by John Sutkowski
EEO Office Manager

Every year we celebrate Women's History Month in March and this year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Although most people are unfamiliar with Title IX, it has shaped and will continue to shape America in many ways.

Title IX, which President Richard Nixon signed into law in June 1972, prohibited sex discrimination in any educational program or activity that received federal funding. Although it wasn't created with athletics in mind, Title IX ignited an explosion in athletic opportunities for girls and women. For example, in the first 30 years of Title IX, the number of girls playing high school sports increased from under 300,000 to over 2.7 million. For colleges, participation numbers increased from under 30,000 to over 150,000.

Some people might wonder why giving women the opportunity to play sports is such a big deal. One benefit is that more women receive athletic scholarships to attend school. Two years after Title IX was voted into law, an estimated 50,000 men were attending U.S. colleges and universities on athletic scholarships, while fewer than 50 women were on scholarship. Turning the clock ahead 30 years, and women were receiving about \$372 million dollars per year in scholarship money that may never have existed without Title IX.

A second, and perhaps much more significant benefit, is that participating in athletics can make you a better person. Sports teaches teamwork, self-sacrifice and how to work with others towards a common goal. Athletics can also give people self-confidence, self-esteem and teach people how to overcome adversity in high-pressure situations. Because athletics empowers you and teaches you so much about life, the lessons learned on a court or on a field help people deal with problems in their everyday life, whether the problems occur in a household or in a boardroom. For example, a study released by the Department of Education in 1997 stated that 80 percent of female managers of Fortune 500 companies have a sports background, and that high school girls who participate in team sports are less likely to drop out of school, smoke, drink or become pregnant.

A third benefit of Title IX is that it allows young girls to fulfill their dreams and do what they enjoy. In the past, the majority of women who wanted to play basketball, volleyball, soccer or any team sport had no opportunity – they could not play because the teams and leagues did not exist. In the past, only men had the privilege of deciding whether they wanted to play sports. Today, however, women have the same opportunities as men, and after all, isn't that what America is all about – the freedom to make your own decisions, and choose to participate in the activities that make you happy?

So the next time you're in the stands cheering for your daughter's soccer team, or the next time you're watching the NCAA women's basketball tournament on television, you shouldn't take it for granted. If not for Title IX, the lives of many girls and women (and the people who care about them) would be much different than it is today.

Gates urges Congress to pass 2007 supplemental budget

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates called on Congress to quickly act on the fiscal 2007 supplemental request to fund ongoing operations in the war on terror.

Gates, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Marine Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee Feb. 27.

President Bush is asking for \$93.4 billion for the Defense Department, and that money is vital, Gates said.

"If these additional funds are delayed, the military will be forced to engage in costly and

counterproductive reprogramming actions starting this spring, in April, to make up the shortfall," Gates said. "Timely enactment of this supplemental request is critical to ensuring our troops in the field have the resources they need."

Congress already has appropriated \$70 billion for operations this fiscal year.

If approved, the supplement will pay for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, repairing and replacing equipment damaged or destroyed in combat and in new technologies to protect U.S. servicemembers. This last includes a new generation of body armor, better armored vehicles and countermeasures

against improvised explosive devices. IEDs have caused around 70 percent of the U.S. casualties in Iraq, officials said.

The supplement also will provide funds for training and equipping the Iraqi and Afghan security forces.

"While our country is focused on the situation in Iraq, it is critical that the gains made in Afghanistan these past few years not be allowed to slip away," he said.

Gates said Congress may have "sticker shock" over the DoD request. If the supplemental request is approved, the department would spend more than \$700 billion this fiscal year.

The secretary said that four cents on the dollar is not too much to pay when the country is facing a myriad of other problems besides the war on terror. Gates said that Iran and North Korea have nuclear ambitions and are known proliferators. China and Russia are walking uncertain paths to the future and are "pursuing sophisticated military modernization programs."

He also said there is a range of other potential flashpoints in the world. "In this strategic environment, the resources we devote to defense at this critical time should be at the level to adequately meet those challenges," he said.

Going medieval: Employee lives for the Dark Ages

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

For thousands of people around the world, the Middle Ages are now. These people, from every walk of life, regularly dress in leg hose, tunics, damask gowns and armor to participate in court ceremonies and battles.

Lady Deianeira Rodriguez y Aragones, also known as Education Technician Lynda Paulsen, is one of these people. A member of the Society for Creative Anachronism for 12 years, Paulsen said she has always been interested in the Middle Ages.

“What draws people into this organization is not necessarily the weapons and battles, but a love of research, the history of that era,” she says. “Members go into painful detail to make their characters someone who could have actually lived. Clothing, cooking, sewing, blacksmithing, names – all are done as close to reality as possible.” For example, Scottish kilts were nine yards long and the Scots rolled into them, draping the extra length over their shoulder.

According to their Web site, The Society for Creative Anachronism is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts and skills of Europe from the 5th to the 16th centuries. Their “known world” consists of 19 kingdoms, with over 30,000 members from countries around the world.

Members, dressed in clothing of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, attend events which may feature tournaments, arts exhibits, classes, workshops, dancing, feasts and more. “Royalty” holds courts at which they recognize and honor members for their contributions to the group. Paulsen was interested in medieval Spain and developed her character from that era. Many members, when they create their persona name, will also design “arms” (heraldic devices) to represent their persona’s family line.

“There are about 12,000 people that attend Pennsic War, which is our annual gathering at Coopers Lake Campground near Pittsburgh,” said Paulsen, who is a member of the Aethelmearc Kingdom. “We spend two weeks reliving a medieval town, living in tents, many of which are period pavilions, attending classes and Royal Courts, all while dressed in medieval garb. Hundreds of members participate in tournaments and fighting in several field battles during the two weeks.”

Paulsen has also done intensive research into warrior women and matriarchal cultures and learned that the role of women was not like the portrayals in movies and far more than what is taught in high school history. Through this anthropological and archeological research, she developed a class and teaches the information at gatherings such as Pennsic, Aethelmearc War Practice and Aethelmearc Academy.

“I focused on the matriarchal aspect of the era,” she explained. “Women had a lot more power than is generally known. Women fought alongside men for hundreds of years and in many cultures held powerful positions; this is seen quite often in Celtic societies. Queen Boudicca is one such example.”



Lynda Paulsen shows some the clothing and gear she uses as a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism. She is holding a heavy rapier, called a schlaeger, and a Spanish Morion helmet. Paulsen, an award-winning rapier fencer, designs and makes most of the clothing, including the decorative lace for the boots and gloves. (Photo by Ed Paulsen)

Boudicca fought the Romans in Britain. She won a few battles, but was eventually defeated.

Paulsen has always had an interest in martial activities within the SCA, beginning with Archery and Thrown Weapons, and now within the past two years, becoming heavily involved in the fencing (rapier) activities.

“Historical fencing is very different than collegiate fencing. We do not move back and forth in a linear fashion; we fight in a more realistic, free style fashion,” she said. “We use several types of blades: the foil, the epee and a heavier styled blade called a schlaeger. To these we can add additional weapons, including dagger, cloak, buckler, and case.”

Case is two of the same blade weapon, such as a case of epee or a case of schlaeger.

Paulsen is so skilled that she has won several contests. She won the Aethelmearc (light) Novice tournament at Pennsic. She also won the Baronial Championship (on points) and competed in the Seven Pearls competition, and thus represented her Barony at the Seven Pearls Championship Tournament represented by the Baronial Champions from each of the seven Baronies within Aethelmearc.

“I didn’t win, but getting chosen to fight is an important accomplishment for me,” she said.

She is also a Kingdom-warranted fencing Marshal, meaning she can teach fencing, check that their armor and weapons are correct and safe, and rate their skill levels. She has also served as a member of the Royal Guard (Kingdom level).

Although they fight in a realistic manner, all weapons and clothing must meet safety guidelines. For Paulsen, she wears a fencing jacket under her garb and is basically covered from head to toe in clothing that will protect her.

She said the large “melee” battles (heavy weapons and fencing) are fought in the “Braveheart” fashion, with fighters at opposite ends of a field basically running



Lynda Paulsen (left) fights Doña Illadore at the Seven Pearls Champions Tournament in July. A member of the Order of the White Scarf, the highest level a fencer can attain, Illadore defeated Paulsen. However, if Paulsen wins in an April tournament, she will compete at the Seven Pearls Tournament again in July. (Photo courtesy Lynda Paulsen)

at each other until they meet and engage in battle. Despite all the safety precautions, as with any contact sport there is a risk. In 2005, Paulsen broke her collarbone.

There is also an element of intrigue. Kingdoms align with each other, then realign, people become mercenaries for other kingdoms, and kings and queens fight to stay in “power,” although there is a six month rotation of royalty.

“All of this done for the fun, love, and appreciation for the hobby, as well as the fascination of being able to participate in a living history,” she said.

But despite the excitement and fun of mock battles and individual combat, Paulsen says the underlying goal is educational.

“There is a strong academic focus,” she said. “You learn so much history doing this and we strive to educate the public. I teach a class at Pennsic called Amazonism: Beyond the Myth of Warrior Women and Matriarchal Societies. This does not focus on

just Spain, it covers information worldwide.”

Paulsen and other society members used to hold an annual public demonstration in Scranton of how people lived in those times.

“We had the fighting demos, the blacksmiths, seamstresses, cooks recreating meals, all the crafts, like armor making, there are even artisans who will use the correct berries to dye cloth,” she said.

Paulsen’s daughter Monica (Rianith d’Stilwater) decided to join, only she is developing a Japanese character. “She made the proper clothing, is teaching herself the culture of the time and even is self-learning Japanese,” Paulsen said. “Although she will carry a period weapon, a katana, which is a wooden sword, she is more interested in the garb and the language.”

Paulsen plans to continue her involvement in the Society for as long as possible. She will compete in a fencing tournament in April which will again select her Barony’s Rapier Champion.

Gates promises Guard members fewer, shorter, more predictable deployments

by Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is committed to implementing changes in policy that will mean fewer, shorter and more predictable deployments for reserve-component troops, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told the National Guard’s 54 adjutants general Feb. 27.

Speaking to the Adjutants General Association of the United States mid-winter conference, Gates said his goal is for Guard members to serve a one-year deployment no more often than every five years.

This met with resounding applause by the adjutants general, whose state forces have been strained in the past five years supporting federal and state missions of historical proportions.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 275,000

Guard members have been mobilized in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This, in addition to state emergencies such as snow storms, floods and forest fires, and border-patrol missions have heavily strained pools of National Guard troops available for deployment. In a historical mobilization in response to a natural disaster, 50,000 Guard members were called up in 2005 from across the nation in support of Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

Until now, National Guard troops called up for the Army’s standard one-year tour in Iraq would actually serve for 18 months, including pre-deployment training and post-deployment administrative requirements. Gates is imposing a one-year limitation to the length of deployment for National

See DEPLOYMENTS on Page 6

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Larry Bulanda	Electronics engineer	D/PII
David Caldero-Santiago	Sheet metal worker	D/SIS
Jeremy Day	Electronics worker	D/ISR
Russel Dunkelberger	Health physicist	D/IRM
David Ezzell	Electrical worker	D/SIS
Jonathan King	Electronics digital computer mech	D/C3/Avionics
Paul Lisowski	Electronics worker	D/COMSYS
Troy Morgan	Electronics mechanic	D/COMSYS
Pheth Phornsavanh	Electronics mechanic	D/COMSYS
Dennis Pituch	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
Michael Pivnich	Electronics worker	D/ISR

THANKS

I would like to thank all of my many friends and co-workers who attended my retirement party at The Landing and joined me in celebrating my retirement. The many wonderful memories and stories I have of Tobyhanna Army Depot will stay with me forever.

I can honestly say I enjoyed my 34 years at Tobyhanna and the friends I have made will never be forgotten and will be kept in my heart forever.

Retirement will be a happy time in my life, but also a sad one because I will miss every one of you enormously.

Please remember me as I will never forget you and the great times we shared. Thank you and I hope to see you all again.

Sally Zurcher



AMC Business Transformation official tours depot

Terry Hora, director of Business Management, briefs Ronald J. Davis (second from left), deputy chief of staff for Business Transformation, U.S. Army Materiel Command, on Tobyhanna Army Depot's support of the Vehicle Intercommunications System. With Hora are Lorraine Hunt, deputy director of Communications Systems, Joseph Magnotta (right), chief of the Tactical Communications Division, and John MacCartney, chief of the SINCGARS Branch. Davis visited the depot on Feb. 27 for a briefing on the depot's mission capabilities, partnership initiatives, Lean Six Sigma implementation and how Tobyhanna is transforming its mission capabilities in response to changing technologies to improve warfighter support. In addition to the briefing and tour of depot facilities, Davis received demonstrations on some of the depot's newest pieces of support equipment, such as the DAGE X-Ray Inspection Station (used to inspect printed circuit boards) and the METCAL Array Package Rework System, which provides the ability to repair circuit boards that contain Ball Grid Array technology. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

DEPLOYMENTS from Page 5

Guard Soldiers effectively immediately, he said.

The defense secretary stressed, though, that some troops may be caught in the start of the cycle and face deployments faster than once every five years. His department is looking at developing compensation for those who serve additional mobilizations, and officials are reviewing hardship policies that allow for the exemption of some troops based on personal circumstances. The one-to-five-year cycle does not include activations for state emergencies.

Gates said the influx of 92,000 troops into the active Army and Marine Corps over the next five years should help take some of the load off of the reserve component. He said the larger pool of ground forces available will make it less likely Guard troops will be needed for deployments.

"The goal is to distribute more fairly and more effectively the burdens of war among our active and reserve components, while providing more predictable schedule of mobilizations and deployments for troops their families and civilian employers," Gates said.

Gates said that since Sept. 11, 2001, the Guard has undergone a "remarkable transformation" from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve, and he pledged additional resources to help keep the Guard ready.

In the next two fiscal-year budgets, Gates said, the Defense Department is asking for \$9 billion to reset and reequip the Guard. Many units face severe shortages after returning from deployments with either missing or broken equipment.

"Reconstituting and resetting the Guard and reserve ... is the top priority for the Department of Defense," Gates said.

Gates' goal is a National Guard that is fully manned, trained and equipped and capable of taking on a range of traditional and nontraditional missions at home and abroad, he said.

Despite the strain on the National Guard, Gates said, recruiting and retention numbers show that troops still want to serve and believe in the mission. In fiscal 2006, the Army National Guard exceeded its retention goals by 18 percent. Also that fiscal year, the Guard reached 99 percent of its recruiting goal and signed up 19,000 more soldiers than in fiscal 2005. The Army National Guard had a net increase of 14,000 soldiers in the past year, Gates said.

Other recent changes include rescinding the policy that stated a Guard member could not be activated for more than 24-months in a six-year enlistment. That caused the Army to have to put units together in a piecemeal manner, sometimes from different states, Gates said.

Also, DoD will quit the practice of slicing up units to fill deployment demands. This happened to many states that had to cough up cookie-cutter-sized task forces, leaving odd-sized units back home basically non-deployable as a unit. "It is important, I believe, that citizen-soldiers who live together and train also deploy and fight together," Gates said.

Gates also has directed officials to minimize the use of "stop-loss," a policy that freezes personnel in specific jobs or units and prevents them from getting out or changing jobs.

All of these changes represent a shift in how DoD intends to use the Guard and reserve in the future, Gates said.

"In the future, our troops should be deployed or mobilized less often, for shorter

periods of time and with more predictability and with more quality of life for themselves and their families," Gates said.

One adjutant general thanked Gates for implementing the one-year deployment. "We've promised this to our employers and families back home. It means a lot to them," he said.

He asked for support in preventing the "creep" of additional pre-mobilization training and post-deployment administrative requirements added on. "We ask that you help us hold that line," he said.

Gates responded, "We've made a commitment. We need to keep our word."

Gates also praised reservists for giving leaders unabashed feedback. Gates said that when he eats with troops in Iraq or Afghanistan, they never hold back in telling him what they think.

"America's citizen-Soldiers are unique

in the history, ... not just because of their patriotism, dedication and skill, but because they are American citizens first and foremost," Gates said. "Thus, they are not overly impressed with rank, and not afraid to ask questions or offer advice or criticism.

"I hope we never change that, because it means American democracy is planted firmly in the spirit and the hearts of our citizen soldiers," he said.

National Guard Chief Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum introduced Gates, and said that in just a month Gates has announced long requested and desired changes in the mobilization policy for the reserve components.

"He listens. He's smart. He is a decisive, visionary leader who is sensitive to the citizen Soldier and does appreciate and understand its critical role and essentiality in the defense of America today," Blum said.



An Illinois Army National Guard Soldier from the 1644th Personnel Service Battalion sights her rifle on "insurgents" during the convoy training portion of Exercise Patriot '06, at Fort McCoy, Wis. (Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick J. Cashin)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline.Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Olyphant, Jessup, Throop:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, non-smoking, call Bryan or Dave, X57639.
- **Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, Dalton:** 1 opening, "A" placard, 9/4/5, ends at Mr. Zs, Waverly exit on Interstate 81, call Thomas, X58736.
- **Berwick, Nescopeck, Conyngham:** individual seeks car or van pool, 5/4/9, contact Erin Priestman, X59779 or erin.priestman@tobyhanna.army.mil.
- **Parrish bus:** 5 openings, non-smoking, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., stops at the Midway Shopping Center, Wyoming; Gerrity's Market, West Pittston; Pittston Plaza; Convenient Market in Avoca, and the Triple A Auto at bottom of Route 502, \$125 a month, call Tony, X57507 or Bob, X56845.
- **Carbondale area:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, shared driving, 5/4/9, RDO first Friday, house pick up, call Patrick, X57178.
- **Jim Thorpe area:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, shared driving, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., call Pat, X57671.
- **Back Mountain, Luzerne, Kingston:** individual seeks van pool, 5/4/9, contact Jeff Ciaruffoli, X59705 or Jeffrey.Ciaruffoli@us.army.mil.
- **Childs, Jessup, Dunmore:** openings, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, "A" placard, park and rides, call Larry Backman, X59329.
- **Hazelton, Drums:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, non-smoking, shared driving, send e-mail to Brian.Sauers@tobyhanna.army.mil.
- **Factoryville, LaPlume, Dalton, Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, "A" placard, non-smoking, 5/4/9, call Tom Talarico, X57081.
- **Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, van, pickup in South Stroudsburg, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. shift, send e-mail to john.kulp@tobyhanna.army.mil.
- **Hackettstown, N.J.:** individual seeks car or van pool from NW New Jersey/ Interstate 80 area, anyone traveling Interstate 80 West, call Robin Lombardo, X57345.
- **West Scranton:** 2 openings, van, non-smoking, 7 passengers, Luzerne Street shopping center, 5/4/9, call Jim Mangan or Bill Flynn, X58184.



TRADING POST

- **Misc items:** Ladder, 10 foot, Louisville fiberglass, heavy-duty, folding, new over \$300, asking \$200; extension ladder, 36-foot, Louisville fiberglass, new over \$600, asking \$375; Knaack Jobmaster 36 work box, new \$230, asking \$140 OBO; cable, 75 feet, 75ohm, dual RG6, black, \$10; DeWalt DW402 used grinder with case, \$30, call Chuck or Pam, 752-6934.
- **Horse:** AQHA registered gelding sorrel, Western and English flatwork, current on shots and coggins, stands for vet, farrier clips, baths and loads; skilled in parades, 4-H showings and team penning and barrels; loves games and trail rides, experienced rider only, asking \$2,000, call Renee, 842-1511.
- **Misc. items:** electronic hockey table, tallies scores, paid \$299, asking \$125; Casio keyboard with stand, keys light up to teach user how to play, like new, paid \$199, asking \$125; portable basketball hoop, asking \$30; kitchen table, 4 chairs, wooden tabletop and iron legs, \$100; bedroom set, full-size bed, dresser with mirror, chest of drawers, 2 night stands, does not include mattress, asking \$100, call Lisa or Jerry, 876-3053, leave a message.
- **House:** 2-story, 7 rooms, 1 bath, unfinished basement, oil/electric heat, replacement windows, detached 2-car garage, 2 storage buildings, .87 acre, on Route 348, Jefferson Township, North Pocono School District, asking \$189,000, call 689-7692 or 689-4796.
- **Exercise equipment:** Gazelle Freestyle Elite, like new, asking \$150, call Kathy, 894-4265

NEW SUPERVISORS

John Parada is the Forward Repair Activity (FRA) Support Program manager, European and Deployed Branch, FRA Division, Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate.



Parada

As chief, he supervises 15 employees who provide on-site support for maintaining, testing, repairing, screening and limited warranty repair of Standard Army Management Information System (STAMIS) and commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)/non-developmental item (NDI) computer equipment.

Major systems supported are the Common Ground Station and Tactical Operations Center equipment. The branch oversees FRAs in Germany, Italy and various deployed sites in Southwest Asia.

Prior to his current position, Parada was a mechanical engineering technician, New Technology and Research Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

He began his career at Tobyhanna in April 1981.

Parada served four years in the Navy and 18 years in the Navy Reserve, retiring Feb. 1 as a chief petty officer. While on active duty he worked as a hull technician in Holy Loch, Scotland, aboard the USS Holland, and in Philadelphia aboard the USS Ellison. He was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 21 in Lakehurst, N.J., while in the reserves.

He held various staff positions, including battalion safety officer and the training staff senior enlisted and operations staff senior enlisted.

His awards and decorations include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

Parada is a 1976 graduate of Bishop Hoban High School, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

He and his wife, Susan, reside in Wilkes-Barre. They are the parents of Kimberly, 18, and John, 17.

Parada's hobbies include golf, motorcycles and home improvement.

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, Frank Zardecki, Carol Tucker, John Munley, Edward Toth, and depot commander Col. Ron Alberto attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held Feb. 28.

Four Tobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Feb. 28 Length of Service ceremony.

Frank Zardecki, 45 years, deputy depot commander.

Edward Toth, 40 years, electronic equipment specialist, Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

John Munley, 30 years, electronics technician, Operations Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

Carol Tucker, 30 years, electronics worker, Electronic Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins 45-year honorees receive a bronze eagle and crystal decanter; 40-year honorees receive a crystal eagle from the Communication-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command and a gold watch from Tobyhanna; 30-year honorees received a framed American flag and aerial photo of the depot.

Honorees who attend the ceremony get a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Ron Alberto presented the awards.

RETIREES

One employee met with depot commander Col. Ron Alberto Feb. 26 before retiring.

Edward Toth was an electronics equipment specialist, Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

He started work at Tobyhanna in September 1967.



Toth

Toth resides in Lake Winola with his wife, Susan. They are the parents of Kimberly and Michelle, in-laws of Frank and Robert, and grandparents of Shane, Evan and Britnee.

His hobbies include slow-pitch softball, cars, jobs around the house and having fun with the grandchildren.

After retirement he plans to travel, visit friends and relatives and go to lots of baseball games to "see the new team in town."

Toth also said he may get a part time job if he gets bored.

SMART-T Reset mission wraps up

Several Lean events aid organization, resolve problems, improve work flow

by **Anthony Ricchiazzi**
Editor

Tobyhanna is concluding its first wave of Resetting SMART-T satellite terminals.

SMART-T is the AN/TSC-154 Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical Terminal, a Military Strategic and Tactical Relay (MILSTAR) satellite-compatible ground communications terminal. It provides worldwide data and voice communications from a stationary mission site.

The system, which is mounted on a humvee, also provides range extension for Mobile Subscriber Equipment and end-to-end user communications.

Technicians in the Tactical Satellite Equipment Branch were trained by Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command's (CE LCMC) Product Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (PM WIN-T), and began to assist them to Reset in December 2005 at the CE LCMC. The branch is part of the Communications Systems Directorate's Satellite Communications Division.

PM WIN-T for the SMART-T, with the depot's Satellite Communications System Division, formed an Integrated Product Team to plan, program, train and implement Reset of the SMART-T.

Tobyhanna is also Resetting the humvees that carry the systems,

Work at Tobyhanna began in August 2006. Howie Miller, branch chief, said the

systems they are Resetting are from Army units stationed in Southwest Asia.

"We completed 11 in fiscal year 2006," Miller said. "This fiscal year, we've completed eight for different Army units."

Six technicians Kevin Piowowski, Jesse Brown, Robert Cronauer, Donald Christman, Daniel Vadella, and Christopher Howe carry out the work. Jack Tolerico is the mission work leader.

Each system is tested, disassembled, cleaned and mechanically repaired.

Technicians troubleshoot the electronics components down to circuit card level, but do not perform any repairs. Electronics are covered under Raytheon's warranty, so technicians remove the circuit cards and send them to Raytheon.

The systems are then assembled, tested offline (without satellite link), then tested online with a satellite for 24 hours to make sure they track correctly with the satellite.

"Most of the problems with this group of systems are with the electrical system," Piowowski said. "We also find some problems with the synthesizer, which processes the satellite signal."

Brown said three Lean events have made the shop more organized and work flow smoother.

"We had a Value Stream Analysis in November, and a Process and Planning Event and a Rapid Improvement Event in January," Miller said. "PM WIN-T representatives, a Lean Six Sigma expert from Raytheon,



Jesse Brown (left) and Kevin Piowowski repair an AN/TSC-154 Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical Terminal. Tobyhanna technicians have repaired several SMART-T systems for the Army and will repair 13 for the Marine Corps. (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)

who makes the system, and our production controller, Linda Audett, participated in the Value Stream Analysis and the Process and Planning events. They offered suggestions and helped us resolve problems."

Miller added that it was taking about 290 hours to Reset one SMART-T. "Now it takes 250 hours and we have set a goal to cut that to 220 hours."

Brown noted that the time it takes to reset a system depends on its condition when it arrives.

"The worst one we had was while we were working at Fort Monmouth. That one

took three months, but it was in exceptionally bad condition."

Humvees are repaired by the Tactical Vehicles Branch, part of the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Industrial Services Division. Repairs are made on all humvee components, including tires, body and transmission. After the humvees are repaired, they are sent to the Mobile Refinishing Branch for painting.

Although the current SMART-T Reset work is strictly for the Army, Miller said 13 more will be done for the Marine Corps starting in March.

Terror, Iran, North Korea top list of threats

by **Jim Garamone**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Terror remains the No. 1 threat to the United States and its interests, the new U.S. director of national intelligence said in congressional testimony Feb. 28.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Retired Navy Vice Adm. John M. "Mike" McConnell gave a tour of the world from a threat level.

Al Qaeda remains the terrorist network that poses the greatest threat to the United States, he said. "While many of al Qaeda's senior leadership have been killed or captured, its core elements are resilient," he said. "They continue to plot attacks against the homeland and other targets with the aim of inflicting mass casualties."

Al Qaeda and other terror groups continue to seek chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons or materials, he said. "Al Qaeda also is forging stronger operational connections that radiate outward from their camps in Pakistan to affiliated groups and networks throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe," the admiral said.

Hezbollah, the Shiite organization backed by Iran and Syria, remains a source of concern to the United States also, McConnell said. "Hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have increased Hezbollah's self-confidence," he said.

Cooperation among nations remains the best defense against these terror organizations, McConnell said. "Our ability to prevent attacks has been aided considerably by cooperation from many foreign governments," he said.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States faces challenges exacerbated by terrorism.

In summarizing a national intelligence estimate on the situation in Iraq, McConnell said the security and political trends in Iraq "are moving in a negative direction." The Samarra mosque bombing in February 2006 caused sectarian violence that has become self-sustaining. "Unless efforts to reverse these conditions gain real traction, we assess that the security situation will continue to deteriorate," he said.

Success by the stronger and more loyal Iraqi security forces supported by the coalition in reducing violence "could give Iraqi political leaders space to pursue political compromise needed for progress and stability," McConnell said.

However, he added, even if violence declines, the current level of sectarian animosity will make political reconciliation difficult over the next 12 to 18 months.

If the coalition withdraws rapidly, intelligence officials foresee an increase in the scale and scope of sectarian conflict, he said. A withdrawal would also intensify Sunni resistance to the Iraqi government and have adverse consequences for national reconciliation. In addition, al Qaeda almost certainly would use Anbar province to plan for increased attacks.

While outside actors are not likely to be a major driver of either violence or stability, Iranian lethal support for select groups of Iraqi Shiite militants clearly intensifies the conflict in Iraq. Syria also continues to provide safe haven for expatriate Iraqi Baathists, McConnell said.

In Afghanistan, 2007 is a pivotal year, the admiral said. "They must build central and provincial government capacity,

confront perverse drug cultivation and trafficking, and, with NATO and the United States, arrest the resurgence of the Taliban," he said.

Progress in Afghanistan will not be easy. "There is a chronic shortage of resources and of qualified, motivated government officials," he said. "Once more, although the insurgency probably does not now directly threaten the government, it is deterring economic development and undermining popular support for President (Hamid) Karzai. The drug trade contributes to endemic corruption and undercuts public confidence."

McConnell said that Iran and North Korea are of particular concern to the United States. These regimes have pursued nuclear programs in defiance of U.N. Security Council restrictions. "We assess that Tehran seeks to develop nuclear weapons and has shown greater interest in drawing out negotiations rather than reaching a diplomatic solution," he said.

In addition, a nuclear Iran could cause a nuclear arms race in the region, McConnell said. "While our information is incomplete, we estimate Iran could produce a nuclear weapon by early to mid next decade," he said.

With North Korea, six-party talks have produced an agreement intended to lead to a declaration of all North Korean nuclear programs and to the country's disabling all existing nuclear facilities.

"The agreement is the initial step in the denuclearization process and will be closely observed as we watch for its implementation," McConnell said.